

North Region Edition

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State of Utah
Department of Workforce Services



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EMPLOYER *Update*



Wal-Mart Supercenter Teams Up with DWS

WAL★MART®



From July 15 to August 9, the Department of Workforce Service' (DWS) Roy Employment Center (EC) served as a temporary recruitment center for Wal-Mart as it transitioned into a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Changing from a Wal-Mart to Wal-Mart Supercenter required big adjustments for the store. Additional staff were needed to cover the extra departments as well as the overnight shifts that were added to the super center.

Wal-Mart anticipated hiring approximately 300 new employees to accommodate these changes. The Roy EC supported Wal-Mart by providing space for interviewing, application processing, orientations, and drug testing. The Roy EC also assigned two employment counselors, Diane Stanger and Sumiko Anderson, to write and manage approximately 20 job orders for the additional staffing needs. The entire

Roy EC staff pitched in to accommodate Wal-Mart's employees and the additional job seekers that came into the office in search of Wal-Mart jobs.

Wal-Mart Supercenter staff bid our staff a fond farewell when they vacated the employment center and took possession of their newly finished home. The grand opening for the Wal-Mart Supercenter was September 18, 2002.

This is the third time that Wal-Mart has utilized our services in northern Utah. The first occurrence was in winter 1999 when the Harrisville Wal-Mart Supercenter was built and staffed. The second time was in the spring 2002 in Brigham City when a new Wal-Mart Supercenter was built.

Wal-Mart Supercenter staff have continued to make positive comments about the professionalism and willingness to help by DWS staff.

“Heads Up!” for Employers from UI Contributions

Compared to last quarter, twice as many employers chose to file their UI wage and tax reports on the Internet. The quarter ending June 30 was only the second quarter for which on-line filing was available. Of those who used the Internet, about one third elected the to pay taxes on-line, using the electronic funds transfer (EFT) option.

Another exciting development is underway ~the new EWAGE system. Soon, an *Employer Advisor* from UI Contributions will announce availability of EWAGE. The new system will be provided free to Utah employers. EWAGE software will interface with an employer's own existing payroll system to create a UI system that is essentially free-standing on the employer's own computer. The system will prepare reports and maintain historical UI records; it will track employee wages reported to determine when the required taxable wage base has been exceeded. When desired, information may be uploaded to the Internet UI tax Web site where the employer will be automatically recognized and will be able take full advantage of Internet support available on-line.

DWS has a role in the Governor's 1000-Day Economic Plan

Part of the Governor's vision for economic prosperity is that quality jobs are available statewide.

There are three strategies to realize this vision:

- *Invest in people*
- *Develop Utah as a center for technology investment, employment, and entrepreneurship*
- *Enhance life quality*

An agile, innovative, and responsive workforce development system is a crucial component of this vision. Economic prosperity (of quality jobs available statewide) requires a united effort of education, economic development, and workforce services in order to equip Utah's workforce with higher skills and to connect Utah companies with qualified workers.

“As a department, we've accomplished several milestones that compliment the plan,” say the department's Executive Director Raylene Ireland. “We will continue to support the plan by providing services that will help develop our state as a center for technology investment, employment and entrepreneurship.”

UI Extended Benefits Claims Winding Down

By July, the proportion of claimants filing for extended unemployment benefits under the Temporary Economic Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program had decreased to 20% of total initial claims, reported Unemployment Insurance (UI) Director James Finch. When the program began in March 2002, 36% of all “new” filers were TEUC claimants.

The federally funded TEUC program was part of the President's Economic Stimulus Package and provide 13 weeks of additional payments to claimants who have previously exhausted regular Utah benefits. The week ending December 28, 2002 marks the end of the special benefits which were authorized in the wake of September 11, 2001 events. Including TEUC total, new unemployment claims this year are up 39.6% over last year.

Breakfast With Economist Series Continues Statewide

Utah business professionals will have an opportunity to hear the latest economic news from a Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Economist. The department assigns an economist to each region of the state to focus on the details of Utah's diverse and unique economy.

The breakfast seminars are free, and are part of a series of updates on the local and national economy. Check your local newspaper for the next seminar in your area.

Congratulations!

The department's Workforce Information Division was recently recognized by the **Regional Financial Review**, as having the highest accuracy of all states for the past seven years.

Workforce Information Thanks Employers

The Department of Workforce Services' (DWS) Workforce Information Division completed its Annual Refiling Survey for Covered Employment and Wages (CEW) on August 15, 2002. The annual survey helps to ensure the accuracy of the industry classifications upon which the unemployment tax structure rests. Industry classifications are assigned at the time a business registers with DWS. The CEW verifies the physical location and business activity of a portion of employers each year.

This year, 13,375 employers completed the survey for an 86% establishment response rate. The survey also captured information for over 90% of the employees covered by the survey. "Utah actually exceeded the federally required standards of 75% participation for each area in March," said Workforce Information Director Ron Ahlstrom. "We thank Utah employers for their excellent participation in this survey, which gives the information needed for proper UI taxation." Workforce Information at DWS is the leading source for state and local economic information in Utah. Ahlstrom added, "It is clear that Utah employers understand the information they provide to us is critical to identifying economic trends and improving workforce programs."

KUDOS

*Letter to **Connie Carter (BSC)** and **Angie Kirsling (Midvale EC)***

*"The staff at **Remedy** would like to tell you how very much we appreciate your efforts on our behalf and in support of eBay, Inc. The level of service we receive is superb including the recruiting, assistance in screening, and follow up. The amount of chaos a Remedy/eBay job fair creates in your facility is massive, and you and your staff handle it so professionally and calmly. We couldn't recruit, screen and place the required number of candidates for eBay without your assistance and support. You are truly a superior resource for us and all the employers you serve. Thanks for all you do for us."*

**Marylee Krebs Hale,
VP Remedy Intelligent
Staffing:**

"Just wanted to let you folks know how helpful it is to have all of this information on the Web. We are writing an Early Head Start grant for Beaver, Iron and Millard Counties and between your pages and links to other information, we have been able to much of it though your web site."

**Virginia B. Higbee
Director
SUU Head Start**

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North Region

New Weber County Seminars

The Roy and Ogden employment centers are now offering workshops for Weber County employers. These monthly workshops are being developed and presented by the Weber County Workforce Development Committee and are sponsored by the Department of Workforce Services in conjunction with Weber State University and The Northern Utah Human Resource Association.

These seminars are designed to provide resources and tools for Weber County area employers in a variety of topics for human resource professionals, managers, supervisors and business owners. The cost is \$10 per person and includes continental breakfast and all seminar materials.

Many topics will be covered in these workshops. Topics include: Conducting Effective Interviews; Incentives, Perks and Employee Recognition; Fun in the Workplace; Utah's Economy and Labor Market Information (LMI), and Employer Rights. For more information or to register for upcoming seminars, please contact Laurel Kerr at (801) 776-7241 or Bruce Davis at (801) 626-7051.

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